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Critical Issues

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City

Over the years Atlanta has been coming along very nicely in its expansion and building up of the city. I have lived here all my life, and as a resident I have noticed a trend showing up in the growth of the city. The trend of these renovations have been following Le Corbusier’s principles from Norma Evenson’s article. The basic principles we must follow are there: 1) We must de-congest the centers of our cities. 2) We must augment their density. 3) We must increase the means of getting about. 4) We must increase our parks and open spaces.

Interstate 85, the main highway that runs straight through the heart of Atlanta sheppard’s thousands of commuters into the center of the city. They have expanded and added on more and more to this vein aiding the flow. There are several connection and departing highways that empty and fill the highway at steady rates. These commuters are coming in from the radiating worker class neighborhoods. Those who do not want to deal with the headache of traffic take MARTA, which radiates in almost every direction to help streamline traveling and getting around the city. Also having one of the largest and the busiest airports on the East coast, with less then an hour drive away from the city, Atlanta has become a bustling business hub. According to Michael Sorkin’s article, “See you in Disneyland”, Hartsdale Airport was a very interesting marvel to the Disney Company. They had been utilizing his dream of a mass ‘people mover’ to shuttle people to and from their terminals. This was groundbreaking due to the fact of it was a sort of train system on a smaller scale used to transport people to and from otherwise distant places that would be troublesome on foot. This form of movement makes the experience and time spent there more aesthetic to the traveler.

As Evenson states in her article on Le Corbusier, “The chronic problem of the rapidly expanding city lay in what seemed to be a continuous deterioration of the living environment”, and then just a little further along in the article she mentions that as people begin to think in a modern mindset they will have a growing consciousness of the aesthetic and hygienic value of fresh air and sunlight prompted efforts to reduce building density (Evenson, 1929). This is evident in the current projects ongoing in Atlanta. After much petitioning to preserve a historical site, the city decided repudiate nostalgia for the past, and they have begun the project of tearing down a bunch of older worn down buildings in exchange for some high rise housing offset by a bunch of open green space. Another project in process is the Georgia Beltline. It is a development project the will provide a network of public parks, multi-use trails, and transit along a historic 22-mile railroad corridor circling downtown and connecting many neighborhoods directly together. This is the greenway that is entwined within the city to break away from the drab day-to-day living.

So we have the projects of renovating and building areas while giving them open spaces satisfies Le Corbusier’s second and fourth principles of augmenting the cities density and adding more open space. The streamlining of the highway increases the means of getting about in the city. The green spaces and parks help to decongest the city for the inhabitants. While these may seem coincidental, it is hard to not see the connections between current city renovation trends and Le Corbusier’s plan for a radiant city.

Bibliography

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Sorkin, M. *See You in Disneyland*. Retrieved September 27, 2016, from https://blogs.stockton.edu/gah1293/files/2012/01/Sorkin-See-You-in-Disneyland.pdf